

corresponding to inputted image information and records audio information as an optically readable audio code image. See, for example, Nozaki's paragraphs 0057 and 0058 and FIG. 19. Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish the teachings of Nozaki from Applicant's invention. Applicant's claim 1 requires that the processed image digital file and at least one user specified digital file be processed into corresponding digital patterns and that these patterns are printed on one side of a hardcopy medium. The user specified image from the processed image digital file is printed on another side of the hardcopy medium. Nozaki only teaches the printing of a visible image and a machine readable audio coded image. Anticipation under §102 has an exacting standard. Anticipation requires that all of the elements of the claimed invention, arranged as set forth in the claim, be disclosed in a single reference. Nozaki fails to disclose or teach Applicant's claimed invention.

Independent claim 8 is now believed allowable for the reasons given above for claim 1. Claims 2, 4-7, 10-15, and 18-28 are dependent upon a presumed allowable independent claim and are therefore presumed allowable.

Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nozaki in view of US Patent No. 6,176,427 to Antognini et al. ("Antognini"). Antognini discloses a method of formatting digital data into a pattern, encoding that pattern onto a substrate, and subsequently decoding the pattern to recover the data. Antognini observes that the pattern can be used for the storage of information such as documents, software, graphics, etc. (col. 6, lines 53-56) which originate from a computer fixed or floppy disk, visual images from a scanner, or word processing documents stored in a memory (col. 9, lines 31-36). The paper used for printing could be postcards, business reply cards, business cards, newsprint, magazine paper, self-adhesive paper notes, labels, forms, envelopes, cardboard, and checks. Col. 13, lines 54-58. Antognini suggests that multiple datatiles on a single substrate be used for sequential decoding to provide a steady stream of data, such as displaying video clips and audio. Col. 24, lines 46-58. Antognini also suggests that a newspaper page might contain several articles with a separate datatitle for a digital representation of each article. Col. 24, lines 43-45.

Even considering the most favorable combination of Nozaki and Antognini, assuming such combination is permissible, does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed

invention. It is the user that selects the image for processing into the processed image digital file. Therefore there exists both a specified image and a processed image digital file. It is the user who specifies the digital file. Both the processed image digital file and the specified digital file are converted by the encoder into corresponding patterns. The user specified image is printed on one side of the hardcopy medium and the pattern is printed on another side of the hardcopy medium. Neither Nozaki nor Antognini, alone or together, teach or suggest the claimed relationships implemented on a medium in the claimed manner. Therefore, a rejection based upon obviousness fails. Nevertheless, claim 3 has been cancelled in favor of including the limitation in claim 1.

Examiner has rejected claims 9, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nozaki in view of US Patent No. 5,587,740 to Brennan ("Brennan"). Brennan discloses a vending machine that provides photographic postcards. A digital camera is contained within a kiosk and may be pre-oriented to a selected scene. A photograph, which may include the user, may be created for a fee. Claims 9, 16, and 17 are dependent upon a presumed allowable independent claim and are therefore presumed allowable.

Examiner has rejected claims 29, 30, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nozaki in view of US Patent No. 3,762,630 to Braznell ("Braznell"). Braznell discloses a postcard which performs the function of both envelope and postcard so that additional communication (pictures, etc.) can be placed within the envelope for mailing. An alternative embodiment of the mailed has a preprinted stamp thereon. Col. 2, lines 38-39. Even when advantageously combined with the teachings of Nozaki, Applicant's claimed invention is not disclosed. User-selected data and data generated from the user selected image encoded in the form of machine-readable marks are not found. Further, the user-selected image disposed on one side of the correspondence medium and the machine-readable marks disposed on another side of the correspondence medium is not taught. Therefore independent claim 29 is now believed allowable over the §103 rejection and claims 30 and 33, dependent thereon, are believed allowable.

Examiner has rejected claims 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nozaki in view of Braznell and further in view of Antognini. For the


reasons given above and because claims 31 and 32 are dependent upon a presumed allowable independent claim, claims 31 and 32 are believed allowable.

In summary, the claims as amended are now believed allowable over the rejections under §102 and §103. In view of the foregoing Amendment, Applicant believes the present Application to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Examiner is respectfully urged to withdraw the objections and rejections and pass the present Application to allowance.

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